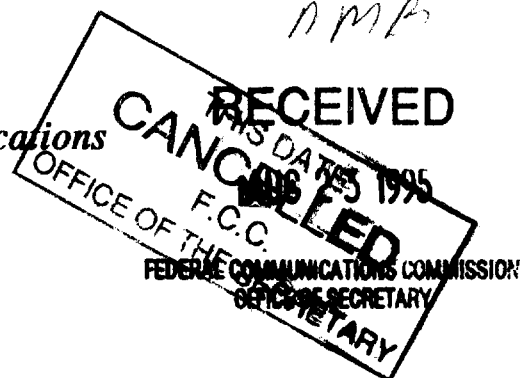




NMP

*Committee on Democratic Communications*  
558 Capp Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Tel: (415) 267-6174



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July 16, 1995

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Reed E. Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

BY FAX AND MAIL

Dear Mr. Hundt:

We are writing to urge you to ensure that the Commission asks pertinent public interest related questions in the upcoming digital television rulemaking.

The National Lawyers Guild's Committee on Democratic Communications (CDC) works to provide legal analysis and support for independent communications organizations, especially those organized at the grassroots community level and at the international level. CDC members have represented the Guild at the international meetings of the MacBride Roundtable on Communications and assisted in drafting that organization's proposed constitution. The CDC has advised the African National Congress on broadcast policy and regulations which have been instituted under the new South African constitution, and the CDC is also active in the debate surrounding micro power radio as a means of providing increased public access to the airwaves.

As you know, the conversion to digital broadcasting will change the face of television as we have known it. Broadcasters are asking the Commission for an extra block of publicly-owned spectrum that will permit them to engage in a myriad of program and non-program services. As a result, we believe that the public should be permitted to comment on whether there should be some enhanced public interest obligations attendant to the grant of the supplemental spectrum.

There has already been some public debate as to whether broadcasters should be required to provide free time to political candidates or should have enhanced children's television obligations in return for use of the extra spectrum. We believe that these are just some of the possibilities. The Commission should therefore ask broad, open-ended questions about possible public interest uses for the spectrum.

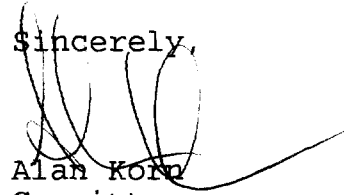
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Whatever one thinks of the idea of having broadcasters give something back to the public in exchange for the use of extra spectrum, at the very least, the public should be allowed to comment on such a proposal. To do otherwise would stifle the debate in what may be the best, last chance to promote democracy in the mass media.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alan Korn  
Committee on  
Democratic Communications

:ak

cc: Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner  
Andrew C Barrett, Commissioner  
Susan Ness, Commissioner  
James H. Quello, Commissioner

# Oregon

## STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

July 17, 1995

Mr. Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

OSSHE ED-NET  
DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS  
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
KIDDER HALL 109, OSU CAMPUS  
CORVALLIS, OREGON 97331-4604

OFFICE: (503) 737-2121  
FAX: (503) 737-2159  
e-mail: rootj@ccmail.orst.edu

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing to urge you to ensure that the Commission asks pertinent public interest related questions in the upcoming digital television rulemaking.

The Oregon State System of Higher Education is actively engaged in distance learning applications throughout the State of Oregon. It is the vision of the Board of Higher Education to expand the use of technology so the resources of higher education can be fairly distributed and equitably received by citizens of Oregon, regardless of where they live. Digital broadcasting has the potential to be one of the technologies used to meet this vision.

As you know, the conversion to digital broadcasting will change the face of television as we have known it. Broadcasters are asking the Commission for an extra block of publicly-owned spectrum that will permit them to engage in a myriad of program and non-program services. We believe, therefore, that it is self-evident that public should be permitted to comment on whether there should be some enhanced public interest obligations attendant to the grant of the supplemental spectrum.

There has already been some public debate as to whether broadcasters should be required to provide free time to political candidates or should have enhanced children's television obligations in return for use of the extra spectrum. We believe that these are just some of the possibilities. The Commission should therefore ask broad, open-ended questions about possible public interest uses for the spectrum.

Whatever one thinks of the idea of having broadcasters give something back to the public in exchange for the use of extra spectrum, at the very least, the public should be allowed to comment on such a proposal. To do otherwise would stifle the debate in what may be the best, last chance to promote democracy in the mass media.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon R. Root  
Director, Distance Learning Programs

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c: Shirley Clark, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs  
jr717